

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 093659

62

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TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT:SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF UNESCO 97TH EXECUTIVE BOARD:
ITEM 3.1.1 (V) -- IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLICATIONS
PLAN

REF: PARIS 7546

1. DEPT IS OF OPINION THAT FUTURE C/5 DOCUMENT SHOULD
PROVIDE GREATER DETAILS (FUNDING AND EVALUATION) OF
UNESCO'S PUBLICATION PROGRAM SINCE ORGANIZATION'S
ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD MAKE IT ONE OF THE MORE IMPORTANT
PUBLISHERS OF WORLD'S SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL MATERIALS.
AT PRESENT, PUBLISHING COSTS ARE DERIVED FROM AN OVERALL
BUDGET, WITH NO APPARENT BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR EACH
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PAGE 02 STATE 093659

SECTOR. TO INSURE GREATER SECTORAL RESPONSIBILITY AND

ASSIST IN EVALUATION, EACH SECTOR SHOULD HAVE ITS OWN PUBLICATIONS BUDGET AND BE CHARGED WITH THE COST OF ITS PUBLICATIONS.

2. EVALUATION OF UNESCO'S PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM SEEMS TO BE NONEXISTENT. MANY, IF NOT MOST, PUBLICATIONS ARE PRODUCED FOR RELATIVELY SMALL INTELLECTUAL GROUPS AND NOT FOR MEMBER STATES OR PERMDELS. EVALUATIVE TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING BREAKDOWN OF COSTS FOR EACH PUBLICATION, SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED SO THAT MEMBER STATES CAN JUDGE THE WORTHWHILENESS OF THE PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM IN GENERAL AND OF INDIVIDUAL PUBLICATIONS.

3. A REVIEW OF PAST OUTPUT WOULD SHOW THAT UNESCO'S PUBLICATIONS HAVE BEEN AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT FOR DISPLAYING THE PROWESS OF THE U.S. SCHOLARLY COMMUNITY. AN INDICATION OF THIS EFFECTIVENESS IS THE SOVIET COMPLAINT THAT EE IS UNDERREPRESENTED, PERHAPS PARTICULARLY SO IN THE SCIENTIFIC AREA. THE FAULT, HOWEVER, LIES WITH EE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE PREVENTED THEIR SCHOLARS FROM FREELY COMMUNICATING WITH THE SECRETARIAT OR FELLOW AUTHORS IN THE WEST. THE U.S. WOULD WELCOME WIDER GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF AUTHORS IN UNESCO PUBLICATIONS ACTIVITIES. KISSINGER

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